

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 01516 01 OF 02 180929Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 H-01 INR-05 PM-03
PRS-01 SP-02 EB-04 OMB-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4398
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 01516

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CH, FR, PEPR
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BARRE'S VISIT TO CHINA

REF: PARIS 01225

SUMMARY: A MEMBER OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S STAFF PROVIDED SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON BARRE'S JANUARY 19-24 TRIP TO CHINA. HE DOWNPLAYED THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT AND SAID IT MERELY WAS TO RETURN THE 1975 TENGHSIAO-P'ING VIST. THERE WILL BE THE USUAL DISCUSSION OF THE WORLD POLITICAL SITUATION AND THEY EXPECT THE USUAL TIRED CHINESE REFRAIN ABOUT THE USSR. THEY HAD NO ILLUSION ABOUT TENG'S SHOWING HIS MORE REALISITIC SIDE AND "OPENING HIS HEART" TO THEM. THEY EXPECT A DISCUSSION OF A WIDE RANGE OF POSSIBLE TRADE BECAUSE THE CHINESE HAD SAID THAT THEY FELT BEHIND IN EVERY FIELD. THEY EXPECT TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, BUT THEY WILL NOT ENGAGE IN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 01516 01 OF 02 180929Z

PURPOSE OF TRIP.

THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE GENERAL POLITICAL PURPOSE WAS TO IMPLEMENT THE INVITATION EXTENDED BY TENG HSIAO-PING IN MAY 1975 FOR THE PRIME MINISTER (THEN CHIRAC) TO RETURN TENG'S VISIT.

THE VISIT HAD BEEN SET FOR NOVEMBER 1976 BUT WAS POSTPONED. THERE WAS NO REASON TO DELAY IT ANY LONGER; THE CURRENT PRC INTERNAL STABILITY WOULD FACILITATE MORE CONCRETE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AND THE VERY BAD TRADE IN THE PAST YEAR CALLED FOR BILATERAL TRADE DISCUSSIONS. ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION OF A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP HAS ARISEN IN THE PAST, THEY DO NOT THINK THAT GISCARD HAS ANY INTENTION OF GOING TO CHINA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF SNOBISM IN GOING TO CHINA, MANY PERSONS HAVE TRIED TO GET INTO THE BARRE PARTY.

POLITICAL DISCUSSION.

THE OFFICIAL THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE THE USUAL TOUR D'HORIZON OF THE WORLD SITUATION. TENG WOULD NO DOUBT HARP ON THE SOVIET MENACE. THEY EXPECT HIM TO REPEAT HIS STANDARD LINE; IT SEEMS PREMATURE TO EXPECT ANY SHIFT TO A MORE REALISTIC ANALYSIS, AND, IN ANY CASE, TENG WOULD NOT "OPEN HIS HEART" TO THE FRENCH. THEY DOUBT THAT THEY WILL LEARN VERY MUCH ABOUT THE REAL CHINESE ATTITUDE TOWARD EUROCOMMUNISM, BUT THEY WILL BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ANY INDICATIONS. THEY ALSO EXPECT AN EXTENDED

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PAGE 03 PARIS 01516 01 OF 02 180929Z

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE THIRD WORLD, PARTICULARLY AFRICA.

BILATERAL TRADE.

THE FRENCH DO NOT EXPECT LARGE CONTRACTS IMMEDIATELY, BUT THE TRIP, INCLUDING THE WIDE

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PAGE 01 PARIS 01516 02 OF 02 180941Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 01516

LIMDIS

RANGE OF BUSINESSMEN ACCOMPANYING BARRE, WILL BE A SIGN THAT FRANCE ACCORDS A CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO IMPROVING TRADE. WHEN LI CHIANG VISITED FRANCE, HE HAD A LONG SHOPPING LIST, AND THE FRENCH WILL ACCOMMODATE THE CHINESE BY DISCUSSING A BROAD SPECTRUM OF POSSIBLE ECONOMIC PROJECTS. THE FRENCH GATHERED THAT UNDER TENG'S INFLUENCE THE CHINESE ARE SAYING OPENINGXTHAOPENLY THEY HAVE DROPPED FAR BEHIND IN ALL FIELDS BECAUSE OF THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE WHICH HAVE PREVAILED IN CHINA IN THE PAST 12 YEARS. LI CHIANG INDICATED THAT THEY WISH TO ACCELERATE THEIR CATCHING UP BY A WIDE-RANGING PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH THE WEST. THE FRENCH HAVE GATHERED THAT THE CHINESE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR BACKWARDNESS IN MILITARY AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY, AND THEY THINK THAT THE EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON THESE TWO AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT AT THE EXPENSE, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 01516 02 OF 02 180941Z

NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT WHEN PRC FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER, LI CHIANG, WAS IN FRANCE, HE WAS INTERESTED IN THERMAL (COAL), HYDROELECTRIC AND NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. THERE ARE NO NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY AT THE MOMENT, BUT THE CHINESE MAY WISH TO DISCUSS PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS WITH BARRE. SINCE THE FRENCH COMPANY (FRAMATONE) HAS A LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH WESTINGHOUSE, GUIRINGAUD HAD RAISED THE CHINESE INTEREST IN A PWR REACTOR WITH SECRETARY VANCE.

(A FRAMATONE REPRESENTATIVE WILL ACCOMPANY
BARRE, BUT HE WILL ALSO REPRESENT CREUSOT LOIRE,
WHICH HAS A 51 PERCENT INTEREST IN FRAMATONE.)
AMBASSADOR LABOULAYE WAS INSTRUCTED LAST WEEK TO
TELL THE DEPARTMENT THAT BARRE WOULD BE
PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN PEKING, BUT THAT THEY
WOULD NOT ENTER INTO ANY KIND OF FORMAL
NEGOTIATIONS.
HARTMAN

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